

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /078 W
-----120351Z 006928 /14

R 101620Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4772
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE GW
SUBJ: HONECKER AND SINDERMAN ON GDR-FRG RELATIONS

REF: BERLIN 5949

1. IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, GDR LEADERS CONTINUE TO CAST A POSITIVE LIGHT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE PROGRESS IN GDR-FRG RELATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE UNDERScoreD THEIR DEMAND THAT THE FRG ACCEPT THE GDR AS A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT STATE AND RECOGNIZE A SEPARATE EAST GERMAN CITIZENSHIP.

2. SPEAKING AT A DINNER IN HONOR OF VISITING MONGOLIAN LEADER TSedenBAL MAY 6, HONECKER INSISTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE FRG COULD DEVELOP ONLY ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. YET HE CAME OUT AGAINST WHAT HE TERMED "AN INTERNATIONAL DOOM-SAYING" (ZWECKBESTIMMTE SCHWARZMALEREI)
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IN THE CHARACTERIZATION OF GDR-FRG RELATIONS. IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HONECKER STATED, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT REALISM WAS NECESSARY NOT JUST ON THE GDR SIDE BUT ON THE FRG SIDE AS WELL. FOR HONECKER, THE BASIC PRECONDITIONS "FOR THINGS TO DEVELOP POSITIVELY" WERE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES AND THEIR BOUNDARIES AND NON-INTERFERENCE

IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THOSE WHO VIOLATED THESE PRINCIPLES
WENT AGAINST SECURITY IN EUROPE.

3. SED POLITBURO MEMBER SINDERMANN ALSO TOUCHED UPON
THE FRG IN A SPEECH HONORING THE "32ND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LIBERATION FROM FASCISM" ON MAY 7. SINDERMANN WAS
MORE DIRECT THAN HONECKER HAD BEEN THE DAY BEFORE IN
STATING THE GDR'S DEMAND THAT THE FRG ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE
OF TWO SOVEREIGN GERMAN STATES, RESPECT GDR BOUNDARIES,
AND RECOGNIZE A SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP. HOWEVER, HE
DID NOT TIE THESE DEMANDS DIRECTLY TO FURTHER PROGRESS
IN GDR-FRG RELATIONS. INSTEAD, HE ARGUED THAT THE FRG
COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL GOAL OF SECURING PEACE
AND COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN STATES IF IT TOOK THESE
STEPS.

4. COMMENT: THE GDR APPEARS TO BE STOPPING JUST SHORT
OF MAKING FULL FRG RECOGNITION OF GDR SOVEREIGNTY AND
A SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP PREREQUISITES FOR PROGRESS
IN THE NEXT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRG. SETTING
OUT THE PRECONDITIONS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS, HONECKER
REMAINED VAGUE IN CALLING FOR EQUALITY AND REALISM.
SINDERMANN'S MORE SPECIFIC DEMANDS WERE LINKED TO
DETENTE IN EUROPE RATHER THAN TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN
GDR-FRG RELATIONS.

5. PERHAPS REALIZING THAT THE FRG IS NOT PREPARED TO
RECOGNIZE A SEPARATE GDR CITIZENSHIP, THE GDR HAS THUS
RETAINED A CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN ITS DEMAND FOR FRG
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COMPLIANCE ON SUCH BASIC QUESTIONS. MEANWHILE, THE GDR
HAS SENT SEVERAL RECENT SIGNALS THAT IT IS READY TO
CONSIDER FRG PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON SECONDARY
ISSUES, BOTH IN HONECKER'S MAY 3 REMARK AND THAT GDR-FRG TIES
WERE "BETTER THAN THEIR REPUTATION" (REFTEL) AND IN HIS
MAY 6 STATEMENT CRITICIZING A PESSIMISTIC APPROACH TO
GDR-RELATIONS.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PARTY LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN06006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-1028
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770576/aaaacnlv.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca5cc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 5949
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2589035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONECKER AND SINDERMAN ON GDR-FRG RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GC, GE, (HONECKER, ERICH), (ZEDENBAL, JUMSHAGIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca5cc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009